

EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT FORM 2023

External examiner name:	John Billingham	
External examiner home institution:	University of Nottingham	
Course(s) examined:	Mathematics, Mathematics & Computer Science	
Level: (please delete as appropriate)	Undergraduate	

Please complete both Parts A and B.

Part A				
	<i>Please (✓) as applicable*</i>	Yes	No	N/A / Other
A1.	Are the academic standards and the achievements of students comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which you have experience? <i>[Please refer to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines for External Examiner Reports].</i>	X		
A2.	Do the threshold standards for the programme appropriately reflect: (i) the frameworks for higher education qualifications, and (ii) any applicable subject benchmark statement? <i>[Please refer to paragraph 7 of the Guidelines for External Examiner Reports].</i>	X		
A3.	Does the assessment process measure student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s)?	X		
A4.	Is the assessment process conducted in line with the University's policies and regulations?	X		
A5.	Did you receive sufficient information and evidence in a timely manner to be able to carry out the role of External Examiner effectively?	X		
A6.	Did you receive a written response to your previous report?	X		
A7.	Are you satisfied that comments in your previous report have been properly considered, and where applicable, acted upon?	X		
* If you answer "No" to any question, you should provide further comments when you complete Part B.				

Part B

B1. Academic standards

- a. *How do academic standards achieved by the students compare with those achieved by students at other higher education institutions of which you have experience?*

Your students achieve standards higher than those at the Russell group Universities with whom I have been associated either as an external examiner or academic.

- b. *Please comment on student performance and achievement across the relevant programmes or parts of programmes and with reference to academic standards and student performance of other higher education institutions of which you have experience (those examining in joint schools are particularly asked to comment on their subject in relation to the whole award).*

See Above

B2. Rigour and conduct of the assessment process

Please comment on the rigour and conduct of the assessment process, including whether it ensures equity of treatment for students, and whether it has been conducted fairly and within the University's regulations and guidance.

Everything that I saw was handled in a scrupulously fair manner.

B3. Issues

Are there any issues which you feel should be brought to the attention of supervising committees in the faculty/department, division or wider University?

No

B4. Good practice and enhancement opportunities

*Please comment/provide recommendations on any **good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment**, and any **opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities** provided to students that should be noted and disseminated more widely as appropriate.*

I have not been presented with any direct information about how the students learn or are taught beyond what I have read in the documentation, and I don't know what formative assessment opportunities are available to the students. The summative assessment, with which I have been involved, is simply closed book examinations. This seems entirely appropriate to me.

B5. Any other comments

Please provide any other comments you may have about any aspect of the examination process. Please also use this space to address any issues specifically required by any applicable professional body. If your term of office is now concluded, please provide an overview here.

The only specific comment that I have that I have not made in previous years concerns some confusion that arose between draft and final versions of exam papers. For one paper, I ended up reviewing a draft version of the paper, which was no doubt my fault, but does indicate that the way that versions of papers are organised in OneDrive could be clearer. I would strongly suggest

that creating and using subfolders named 'External Examiner Ready' and 'Final Version' for each paper would make life much easier for everybody involved.

Overall, I have been very happy with your procedures during the three years that I have been doing this job and am confident that your academic standards are very high and were maintained during the difficult lockdown year.

Signed:	
Date:	30/8/2023

Please ensure you have completed parts A & B, and email your completed form to: external-examiners@admin.ox.ac.uk AND copy it to the applicable divisional contact set out in the guidelines.